

Express Mail No.: EV719380826US  
International Application No.: PCT/JP2005/002882  
International Filing Date: February 23, 2005  
Preliminary Amendment Accompanying  
Substitute Specification

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A conductive paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_L$  and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_H$  at a weight ratio of  $X : (1-X)$ , where  $MW_L$ ,  $MW_H$  and  $X$  are selected so that  $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$  falls within a range of 145,000 to 215,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl methyl ether,  $\alpha$ -terpinyl acetate, I-dihydrocarvyl acetate, I-menthone, I-menthyl acetate, I-perillyl acetate and I-carvyl acetate.

2. (Original) A conductive paste in accordance with Claim 1, wherein  $MW_L$ ,  $MW_H$  and  $X$  are selected so that  $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$  falls within a range of 155,000 to 205,000.

3. (Original) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component comprising a step of printing a conductive paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_L$  and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_H$  at a weight ratio of  $X : (1-X)$ , where  $MW_L$ ,  $MW_H$  and  $X$  are selected so that  $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$  falls within a range of 145,000 to 215,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl methyl ether,  $\alpha$ -terpinyl acetate, I-dihydrocarvyl acetate, I-menthone, I-menthyl acetate,

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I-perillyl acetate and I-carvyl acetate on a ceramic green sheet containing a butyral system resin as a binder in a predetermined pattern, thereby forming an electrode layer.

4. (Original) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 3, wherein  $MW_L$ ,  $MW_H$  and  $X$  are selected so that  $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$  falls within a range of 155,000 to 205,000.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 3-~~or~~4, which further comprises a step of printing a dielectric paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_L$  and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_H$  at a weight ratio of  $X : (1-X)$ , where  $MW_L$ ,  $MW_H$  and  $X$  are selected so that  $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$  falls within a range of 110,000 to 180,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl methyl ether,  $\alpha$ -terpinyl acetate, I-dihydrocarvyl acetate, I-menthone, I-menthyl acetate, I-perillyl acetate and I-carvyl acetate on a ceramic green sheet in a predetermined pattern, thereby forming an electrode layer on the ceramic green sheet in a complementary pattern to that of the electrode layer after drying the electrode layer, thereby forming a spacer layer.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 3-~~or~~4, which further comprises a step of printing a dielectric paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_L$  and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of  $MW_H$  at a weight ratio of  $X : (1-X)$ , where  $MW_L$ ,  $MW_H$  and  $X$  are selected so that  $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$  falls within a

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range of 110,000 to 180,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl methyl ether,  $\alpha$ -terpinyl acetate, I-dihydrocarvyl acetate, I-menthone, I-menthyl acetate, I-perillyl acetate and I-carvyl acetate on the ceramic green sheet in a complementary pattern to that of the electrode layer prior to forming the electrode layer, thereby forming a spacer layer.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with any one of Claims 3-to-6, wherein the degree of polymerization of a butyral system resin contained in a ceramic green sheet as a binder is equal to or larger than 1000.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with any one of Claims 3-to-7, wherein the degree of butyralization of butyral system resin contained in a ceramic green sheet as a binder is equal to or larger than 64 mol % and equal to or smaller than 78 mol %.